

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6644

BILL NUMBER: SB 138

DATE PREPARED: Mar 30, 1999

BILL AMENDED: Mar 29, 1999

SUBJECT: Authority to claim doctorate degree or title, physician assistants, and continuing education.

FISCAL ANALYST: Bernadette Bartlett

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9586

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill eliminates the authority of certain professional licensing boards to authorize an individual to claim to have a doctorate degree or to use a title associated with a doctorate degree. This bill also provides that an individual may not claim to be a physician unless the individual holds an unlimited license to practice medicine or a chiropractic physician unless the individual holds a limited license as a chiropractor

This bill requires the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana to adopt rules that establish continuing education requirements designed to maintain the competency of physicians. Physicians must submit a statement attesting that they have obtained the necessary continuing education requirements to renew their licenses.

The Indiana State Board of Nursing must adopt rules that establish continuing education requirements designed to maintain the competency of nurses. Nurses must submit a statement attesting that they have obtained the necessary continuing education requirements.

This bill allows for random continuing education compliance audits.

This bill also changes the certification process for a physician assistant to a licensure process. A licensed physician is authorized to delegate prescribing privileges to a physician assistant. The supervising physician is authorized to supervise two physician assistants. A physician assistant is authorized to certify the health status of patients. A physician assistant is also authorized to provide care in a disaster or emergency situation without liability unless the physician assistant is grossly, willfully, or wantonly negligent.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The Health Professions Bureau, which oversees the regulation of physicians and nurses, will experience an increase in expenses associated with implementing

the continuing education requirements. The primary expense will involve informing practitioners of the changes in the requirements. There are currently approximately 140,000 practitioners. The Bureau will experience an increase in expenses associated with printing and postage necessary to notify practitioners and sponsors of continuing education about the continuing education requirements. Telephone expenses will also increase because of additional calls about continuing education and licensure.

Impact of Continuing Education		
Expense	Fiscal Year 2000	Fiscal Year 2001
Personnel	\$57,000	\$57,000
Printing	85,100	28,400
Postage	143,600	47,900
Telephone	3,000	3,000
Supplies	4,500	4,500
Total	\$293,200	\$140,800

The Health Professions Bureau also oversees the state regulation of physician assistants. The Bureau will experience additional expenses associated with issuing new wall licenses to those practitioners who currently have wall certificates that reflect certification status. The Bureau will also dispose of current supplies of blank wall certificates and replace them with new wall licenses. New applications reflecting the licensure status instead of the certification status would have to be ordered. The Bureau would also experience additional expenses associated with notifying all current practitioners.

The Bureau would also incur additional expenses associated with allowing physician assistants prescriptive authority. The Bureau would need to discard current controlled substance registration (CSR) applications and modify the form to include physician assistants. The Physician Assistants Committee would also need to meet monthly to develop new rules. (The Committee currently meets quarterly.) The Bureau will also experience an increase in telephone inquiries about the proposed changes. Increased expenses are outlined below.

Costs Associated with Licensing Physician Assistants and Allowing Prescriptive Authority		
Expense	Fiscal Year 2000	Fiscal Year 2001
Per Diem	\$3,000	\$1,500
Travel	9,500	4,750
Printing	4,500	2,250
Postage	5,000	2,500
Telephone	1,500	750
Supplies	1,500	750
Total	\$25,000	\$12,500

Total costs for fiscal year 2000 are estimated at \$318,200. Total costs for fiscal year 2001 are estimated at \$153,300.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) Existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) Existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) Authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) Funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) New appropriations. As of 2-26-99, the State Personnel Manning table reported that the Bureau had three vacancies; however, the Bureau intends to fill these positions. With respect to reversions, the Bureau reverted \$223,413 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$214,707 in fiscal year 1996-97. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions. The bill contains no appropriations.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) The proposal may affect the number of applications and the amount of renewal fees that the Bureau collects for physicians and nurses. The specific impact, however, is indeterminable.

With respect to physician assistants, Indiana currently certifies 177 physician assistants. The cost for an initial application is \$30, and the cost to renew a certification is \$20 biennially. Revenue collected in fiscal year 1997 equaled \$1,400. Revenue collected in fiscal year 1998 equaled \$2,640. The proposal may affect the number of applications and the amount of renewal fees that the Bureau collects for physician assistants. The specific impact, however, is indeterminable. License fees are deposited in the State General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Health Professions Bureau

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Barbara Marvel McNutt, Board Director and Staff Counsel, Health Professions Bureau (317) 233-4406.